

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the present application. The Final Office Action dated August 16, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, allowable claim 13 has been amended to independent form, claims 2, 5, 9-11 and 15-18 have been amended based upon the amendment to claim 13, and claims 1 and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 2-11, 13 and 15-20 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,108,057, issued to Kusanagi, in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA); claims 1-10, 12 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,926,234, issued to Shiraki et al. (hereafter "Shiraki") in view of the APA; and claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiraki in view of the APA and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,889,568, issued to Seraphim. Applicants traverse the rejections because neither Kusanagi, the APA, Shiraki nor Seraphim teaches or suggests the combined features recited in the claims of the present application. For example, Kusanagi, the APA, Shiraki and Seraphim fail to teach or suggest an in-plane switching liquid crystal display device that includes, among other features, "a plurality of pads in the non-display region... wherein each pad is between 1 to 2.5 millimeters from each electrostatic discharge device" as recited in allowable independent claim 13.

Because Kusanagi, the APA, Shiraki and Seraphim fail to teach or suggest at least the above feature of claim 13, independent claim 13 and its dependent claims 2-11 and 15-20 are allowable over any combination of Kusanagi, the APA, Shiraki and Seraphim. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

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Amendment dated November 10, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action dated August 16, 2004

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If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: November 10, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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